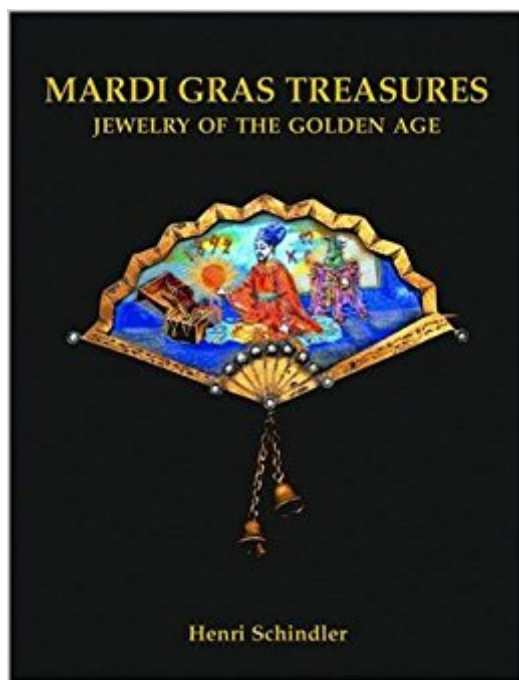


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Mardi Gras Treasures: Jewelry Of The Golden Age



Synopsis

Final installment in the Mardi Gras Treasures Series looks at the artistry and craftsmanship of scepters, crowns, mantles, and krewe favors from Carnival's Golden Age. Exquisite in design and craftsmanship, Mardi Gras jewelry, offered as favors by krewe members, are cherished gifts, proudly worn year after year by the lucky recipients. As is everything related to Mardi Gras, these specially designed and crafted keepsakes are unique to the celebration and reveal the intricate detail observed in carrying out the annual tradition. Mardi Gras crowns, scepters, and mantles, designed exclusively for each krewe, dazzle with brilliant rhinestones and are truly fit for a king.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Final installment in the "Mardi Gras Treasures Series" looks at the artistry and craftsmanship of scepters, crowns, mantels, and krewe favors from Carnival's Golden Age.

"They were gold badges with the letters M.K.C. engraved on them, and suspended by ribbons. It was the beginning of a long-continued effort to curb the practice of bestowing costly favors on young ladies who could not accept such tokens under other circumstances."--Perry Young describes the first Krewe of Comus favors, 1882In addition to the colorful Mardi Gras parades that New Orleans social groups, or krewes, produce for the city's general populace, the Carnival season features elaborate balls, pageants, and tableaux staged for the krewes' members and invited guests. These

productions often rival the pomp of actual royal ceremonies as revelers pay homage to the evening's kings, queens, and debutantes. During the Golden Age of Mardi Gras, the season's appointed rulers flaunted fine crowns, scepters, and other baubles worthy of a real monarch. Each lady in attendance could expect not only a waltz with a masked krewe member, but also a precious gift, or favor, created to coincide with the annual theme. These valuable gifts, often made of silver and gold and adorned with enamel or semiprecious stones, were sometimes given anonymously. Carnival's Golden Age began with the satirical celebrations of the early 1870s, blossomed in grandeur from the 1880s until World War I, and ended with the coming of the Great Depression of the 1930s. Mardi Gras was then a fantastic empire, crowded with scenic parades and pageants drawn from a cornucopia of subjects--mythology, history, literature, theology, nature, and whimsy. The jewelry, favors, and other accessories inspired by these themes reflect the craftsmanship and creativity of the krewes' designers, including Jennie Wilde, Charles Briton, Carlotta Bonnacaze, and LedÃÂ Hincks PlauchÃÂ . This book, the fourth and final in a series of Mardi Gras Treasures, presents the first comprehensive survey, including more than two hundred and fifty color plates, of the jewelry and other precious objects commissioned for the revels of the Golden Age. Henri Schindler, a New Orleans native, is a renowned Mardi Gras historian and designer. His creations adorn the parades and balls of some of the city's most eminent Carnival societies. He curates the Louisiana State Museum's Presbytere Mardi Gras Exhibit and has contributed to Arts Quarterly, published by the New Orleans Museum of Art, the New Orleans Times-Picayune, and Arthur Hardy's Mardi Gras Guide, in addition to his countless appearances in Carnival documentaries. Along with Mardi Gras Treasures: Jewelry of the Golden Age, Schindler wrote Mardi Gras Treasures: Invitations of the Golden Age, Mardi Gras Treasures: Float Designs of the Golden Age, and Mardi Gras Treasures: Costume Designs of the Golden Age. Pelican also offers this series in postcard-book and boxed notecard formats.

Beautiful illustrations in this book. Makes a nice addition to the coffee table. Good gift for debutantes, Mardi Gras fans, and graduates!

Henri Schindler loves Mardi Gras arts, and I defy anyone to pick up any of his books and not come away with a great appreciation of this truly American art form. The illustrations are in color, and are sharp and clean. And soooo many of them. This book is a visual feast. Never mind that the scepters and crowns, necklaces and bracelets are rhinestones--they are absolutely glorious. Oh, the text: intelligent, and eager to reach the reader. If you love jewelry, Mardi Gras, New Orleans, or

a simply gorgeous book, buy this one and drool over the pictures.

Great book.

Gorgeous book, wonderful history - glad I got to look through it before wrapping it as a present!

Makes you wish you lived "back in the day" with all that pomp and glamour.

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